

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME 102-60-10870
DIVISION OF SPORT FISH 102-60-87
STREAM SURVEY SUMMARY

STREAM KARTA RIVER

LOC. Prince of Wales Island

MAP REF. Craig C-2 LAT. 55°33'30" N LONG. 132°35' W
TRIBUTARY TO Karta Bay MAIN DRAINAGE Karta
ORIGIN Karta Lake LENGTH _____ WATERSHED AREA _____

1. FLOW
RANGE _____ cfs VELOCITY rapid AVG. WIDTH 80 ft. AVG. DEPTH 20 in.
FLOOD HEIGHT _____ COLOR/TURBIDITY brown/clear
2. ACCESSIBILITY By plane or boat from Ketchikan.
3. ACCESS STATUS South Tongass National Forest
4. SECTION SURVEYED Origin to mouth.
TRIBUTARIES Half mile upstream, north bank, 8 ft. wide, 3 in. deep. Bottom -
rubble 80%, gravel 20%, few spawning humpies seen, 200 yds up is a
5. BOTTOM TYPE Rubble 60%, boulder 20%, STREAM GRADIENT small lake. %
bedrock 10%, gravel 10%.
6. POOLS - DESCRIPTION & FREQUENCY Infrequent < 25%. The most notable - intertidal area quite
deep, 10-15 ft. One below bend in river 4 ft. deep; one at base of falls
5 ft. deep. Other small pools also. Usual large boulders for shelter.
7. BARRIERS Karta Falls not impassable to fish. Total drop 10 ft. in steps the
longest fall 3 ft.
8. SPAWING AREA Appears quite coarse, but many pinks, chums spawning in 50% of stream.
9. BANK COVER Open to partially shaded by spruce-hemlock, red alder, salmonberry,
stink currant. thimbleberry.
10. WATERSHED TYPE Drains Karta Lake to ocean. Passes through low hills of semi-open
spruce-hemlock canopy, occasional cedar & red alder. (cont.)
11. FISH SPECIES Pink, chum, silver, sockeye salmon, cutthroat, steelhead, Dolly
Varden, cottids, stickleback.
12. FISHING HISTORY A favorite steelhead river in Southeast Alaska.
13. FISHING INTENSITY Almost continuous fishing. Pressure light due to inaccessability.
14. INVERTEBRATES 2 surber taken.
ABUNDANCE _____
15. AQUATIC VEGETATION Mosses common, higher plants. (same types as Karta Lake) common.
16. WATER USE None. Recreation.
17. POLLUTION Thousands of dead salmon and resulting fungus in fall.
18. REMARKS A good forest service trail follows the north shore with paths down
to the fishing holes. There is a Forest Service cabin at either
end of the river.
Caddis fly larvae were seen concentrated on decaying salmon, esp.
the cartilaginous areas.

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SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

NAME KARTA RIVER

LOCATION Prince of Wales Is.

10. WATERSHED TYPE Understory semi-open to closed w/vaccinium,
devils club, fern, and berry bushes in open.

9:15 a.m.

Partly cloudy

Air 7.0°C

Water 11.2°C

pH 6.7

DO 12 mg/l

CO₂ 5 mg/l

Tot. alkalinity 17.1 mg/l CaCO₃

Tot. hardness 17.1 mg/l CaCO₃

MINNOW TRAPS 10 trap hours

<u>SS (cm)</u>	<u>Three Spine Stickleback</u>	<u>Prickly Sculpin</u>	<u>CT</u>
8.6			
9.7	5.4	5.2	6.2
9.2	7.0	10.1	
8.4	5.6	11.0	
9.6	5.2	10.4	
6.0		9.6	
9.8		10.6	
8.1		10.0	

Presently there is heavy predation on the fingerlings in Karta River. More than 50 common Merganser were seen fishing on the river every day. This is the heaviest concentration I have seen anyplace and could be of some consequence.

BY

Short-Behr

DATE September 18, 1973